Rome Scala Dante

April 1st Easter Sunday 1877

My dear Charley

I got your Festive March &
I am much pleased with it as far as
I am able to judge for my hands are
sadly out of drawing & my Music has
come to an end - I have my piano forte
still and a great player plays upon it
time I am sorry to say, but I expect
Two Italians to come & play me your
duet.

'Tis long since I have been
able to write to you for I consider
it my duty to write to poor dear
Maria as she is alone & so deserving

she must have a great bundle of my scribbling for we are good correspondents

I often think of you when I read of the there performances & think of the fagging nightly work you have to go thro' in which you have shown great patience & arrived at perfection on your instrument

How I should like to pop upon you when you are in the Orchestra but alas! this can never be any more, for not only that I have no longer strength to travel but of that the expence would be beyond my scanty means, scanty, but yet here in Rome I am very comfortable & have enough, enough & as good as a feast

Your dear wife & son are well I hope

and I have not forgotten me
My painting still flourishes & sometimes
I am so lucky as to sell a picture, & now
I have done one touching my friends call
it the best work I have ever done. it
is from Rembrandt of the Son of Basil
also I am putting the last touches to a
ten years work, done during the interval
of my illness I consulate, it is the
marriage of Cana, wherein I have
represented the scene as under a
vine arbour & as the water pours
out I show it changing into Wine
As I am now in my 84th year I
may be happy that an indulgent
Providence has gifted me with good
sight & steady hand, my painting being